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Editorial Notes

In the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church in the United States at Savannah, the Rev. Dr. William E. Boggs, of Atlanta, was elected. Born in Ahmednagar, India, in 1838, the son of a missionary, he was educated at Columbia, and in the Theological Seminary. He has had pastorates in Columbia, Memphis, Atlanta and Jacksonville. He was professor in Columbia Seminary from 1882 to 1885, and then Chancellor of the University, Athens, Georgia. He has a large acquaintance throughout the Church, and is held in high esteem.

Rarely does the Assembly convene in a city so unique in design, so admirable in structure, and so artistic in its adornment, as is the historic Southern city of Savannah. If first impressions are to be confirmed, the bearing and spirit of the people harmonize delightfully with the cherished traditions and the pleasing outward aspect of this monumental city by the sea. The architectural plan and embellishment of buildings, as well as the liberal spaces devoted to parks and highways, and numerous shafts and statues in commemoration of brave deeds and heroic lives are suggestive of a people of accurate foresight, broad views and generous impulse. We must believe that we are the guests of a community which steadfastly cherishes the high ideals and sacred traditions of their fathers. May the day never dawn when the chivalry, the high sense of honor, the magnanimity and graciousness of the people of the Southland shall have departed.

An animated and earnest discussion was engaged in on Friday morning when resolutions were offered to the effect that the offices of the U. S. Government be invoked in behalf of Messrs. Morrison and Sheppard, who are to answer charges before the representatives of the Belgian Government in the Congo. It was thought by a majority that this is an act of "humane petition in cases extraordinary," which is provided for in our standards. A minority earnestly contended that such action would be a departure from our uniform practice and our established principles. There was perfect harmony as to a purpose to adhere to the policy embodied in our standards. The resolutions were adopted by a large majority and it is to be hoped that

there will be no misconstruction of the unanimous purpose of the Assembly to maintain inflexibly its established doctrine on the relation of Church and State. Later, a paper, introduced by Dr. S. A. King of the Austin Theological Seminary, was adopted. The import of this paper was the maintenance of our historic position, which is the Scriptural position on a subject which has involved the fall of empire and the immeasurable humiliation and corruption of the Church.

A very pleasant incident of the morning of the second day was the formal introduction of Rev. Charles Merle D'Aubigne, of France, and Prof. James Orr, of Scotland. The one is from France, the land of heroic Huguenots who fought great battles of the faith and suffered in its defence in that land of genius, courage and martyrdom. Mr. D'Aubigne is the son of the distinguished writer of the well known History of the Reformation. The name of Prof. James Orr is familiar to the scholarship of this country as well as of Europe. It is a name that is respected if not feared by the radical school of criticism, and one which promises to continue to carry consternation into the camps of all those elements who belittle the supreme authority of the Scripture. Dr. Orr, in responding to his welcome, paid the South the high compliment of being free from the inroads of radicalism, but ventured the prediction that we will yet have to meet the enemy and turn his front. We may well hope that the battles which have been so well fought will ultimately prove to be decisive and final victories, needing only continued vigilance to guard that which is committed unto us and courage to contend earnestly for the faith against covert assailants.

At the Denver Assembly, of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., a protracted and heated contest resulted in the election of the Rev. Dr. James M. Barkley, of Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Barkley is a native of Statesville, N. C., and was educated at Princeton University and Seminary. After a few years' ministry in Wickliffe Church, Newark, N. J., he went to Michigan, and has been pastor of the Third Church of Detroit since 1886. He is a gifted and popular minister and has wide influence in the northwest. In a total vote of nearly 800, Dr. Barkley received on the last ballot 503.

In the recent litigation over the property of the Cumberland Presbyterian church the courts of Illinois, Texas and Georgia have ruled that the declarations of the Cumberland General Assembly concerning the steps of union are conclusive of the issue and binding upon the civil courts. The Supreme Courts of Tennessee and of Indiana have taken the opposite view, that so far as property rights are concerned, the civil courts may look into the regularity, etc., of the proceedings. The unionists then applied to the Federal Judge at Memphis, in behalf of citizens of Kentucky for a restraining order last week. The Federal Judge denied the application on the ground that their interests are not diverse from the parties in the case already tried.